

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06068 061946Z

62

ACTION NASA-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, SP

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM NASA ADMINISTRATOR TO
KING JUAN CARLOS

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS SENT ON JULY 30 BY
NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER DIRECTLY VIA NASA TELEX TO KING
JUAN CARLOS:

"TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS (SIC) JUAN CARLOS I
KING OF SPAIN
PALACIO DE LA ZARZUELA
MADRID, SPAIN

THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE
SPLENDID COOPERATION OF SPAIN IN THE VIKING PROGRAM.
THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MADRID TRACKING STATION WAS
ESSENTIAL TO THE CONFIRMATION THAT THE VIKING I
SPACECRAFT HAD SAFELY DESCENDED TO THE SURFACE OF
MARS, AND THE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF THIS STATION
DURING THIS AND OTHER MISSIONS IS A TRIBUTE TO
THE COMPETENCE AND DEDICATION OF ALL THE SPANISH
PERSONNEL INVOLVED.

THIS EXAMPLE OF THE BENEFITS OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN OUT TWO COUNTRIES ON A SPECIFIC PROJECT
OF UNPRECEDENTED COMPLEXITY, MAGNITUDE AND DURATION
ASSURES FUTURE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS OF LIKE SOPHIS-
TICATION TO SERVE OUR MUTAL NATIONAL INTERESTS AND
THOSE OF MANKIND.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 06068 061946Z

/S/ JAMES C. FLETCHER, ADMINISTRATOR"

2. WHILE I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE OF NASA
TO CONGRATULATE THE KING, THIS DIRECT SORT OF
COMMUNICATION DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN KEEPING WITH
WHAT I UNDERSTOOD TO BE USG POLICY, I.E. THAT
OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF OTHER GOVT AGENCIES
SHOULD BE PASSED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT FOR
TRANSMISSION TO THE EMBASSY.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

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